

:: Thandi the African Flower Rhino Crochet Pattern ::

A Heidi Bears Design Pattern © Heidi Bears 2013

Please note that I have permission from the designers of this African Flower Crochet Hexagon to design patterns using the African Flower Hexagon motif, and to sell these patterns.

You are welcome to sell any finished Rhinos, made by yourself. Please respect the pattern itself, including instructions, words, photographs, diagrams and the actual construction of the rhino, and do not share, copy, post or distribute in any way, electronic or other that will infringe my right as the author and creator of this pattern. Please do not use the idea and actual rhino pattern to modify and/or alter in any way to create or design and sell derivative patterns, including the use of a different hexagonal / polygonal motif to make a rhino like Thandi. Thank you for respecting the hard work that has gone into designing this pattern. I hope you will love making your own endangered rhino ☺

You have permission to make and sell finished rhinos, but with the proviso that you yourself have made the rhino **and that a credit link is added to any finished items**, linking to my Ravelry pattern shop: <http://www.ravelry.com/designers/heidi-bears>

Your finished item tag should state that this African Flower rhino is made from a Heidi Bears Design pattern. **NO mass production is allowed.**



Dedicated to brave Thandi, the rhino that survived a poaching.



Thandi as she was before the attempt on her life.

<http://www.kariega.co.za/blog/categories/thandi-and-themba>

Thandi is the eighth of my patterns that makes use of the African Flower hexagon crochet motif and variations thereof, joined in a specific order to make a recognizable 3D item. I love this African Flower pattern and the creative possibilities of using it to make 3D items ☺ Thandi is made using six different African Flower motifs: Hexagons, Pentagons, Heptagons and Octagons, Squares and Triangle motifs. She's also an excellent stash buster project, as you only need to use very small amounts of leftover sock yarn to make a motif.

So, let's take a look at the important points and how you will start to make your own little Thandi ☺

:: Steps to making your own endangered rhino ::

1. **First read the whole pattern through properly, so you have a good overview.**
2. Make sure you know how to crochet the African Flower hexagon crochet motif. I have included both written and charted instructions for the African Flower hexagon in this pattern. If you are a visual learner, you can see a step by step photo tutorial on my blog: <http://heidibearscreative.blogspot.com/2010/05/african-flower-hexagon-crochet-tutorial.html>
3. Make sure you are able to crochet an African Flower Pentagon, Octagon and Heptagon, square and triangle... for clarity: the pentagon has five petals and five sides and the heptagon has seven petals and seven sides, the Octagon has eight petals and eight sides and so on.... The difference is simply the number of "petal" repeats that you crochet...pentagons, octagons and heptagons etc are therefore equally easy to crochet. I have included written and charted instructions in this pattern on how to crochet an African Flower Pentagon (as well as all the other motifs). I have also posted a fully explained pentagon tutorial, on my blog, which can be found here:

<http://heidibearscreative.blogspot.com/2011/09/african-flower-pentagon-tutorial.html>
4. Make sure you have gone through and practiced the join-as-you-go technique. This has been explained and illustrated in the PDF named Appendix : Joining Tutorials. Since the joining method is really very important to the success of the project, I strongly suggest that you practice joining on scrap yarn motifs before starting the project. If you would prefer to sew your motifs together, you won't need to practice the join-as-you-go technique, but will need to be confident in your neat sewing ability. I have not included instructions on how to sew stuff together...there are plenty resources available on the internet...
5. Either choose your yarn for this project or use the sock yarn that you have left over from other projects. Make all the required motifs for your rhino **BUT only up to Round 4 of the African Flower motif if you are doing a join-as-you-go method**, or the full motif up to Round 5 if you are sewing up the motifs.

::: Materials Requirements :::

The rhino that has been crocheted for this pattern, was made using sock weight/fingering/#1 weight yarn. Using this weight yarn will give you a rhino measuring approximately **15cm measured from the shoulder to the feet, and approximately 28cm horn to tail.**

ALL THE CROCHET STITCHES USED IN THIS PATTERN ARE BASED ON AMERICAN CROCHET TERMS

Abbreviations: sc = single crochet , dc = double crochet,

Sock weight / Fingering weight yarn/ #1 in colors of your choice... this little rhino is a great stash busting project as you can use small amounts of sock yarn for each motif, and the more colourful the prettier ☺ I used random colors, keeping only to the gray colored yarn for Round 5 of each motif. Although I can't tell you how much yardage of each color I used (since there are so many), I can tell you that the total weight of yarn for the rhino was around **140g (unstuffed)**.

The yardage for the sock yarn I used is around **320m/100g (350yds/100g)**. It is a superwash merino yarn, but you can use any alternative fingering weight yarn you like...I suggest that animal fibre yarns would be preferable, as they have more stretch, making the stuffing and shaping of the rhino easier. Try to use a yarn with a similar yardage / 100g.

Crochet Hook 1.75mm

If you are planning to make your rhino in a heavier weight yarn, adjust your hook size accordingly...however, use the smallest hook size possible for the weight of yarn that you can manage. Since the rhino is stuffed, your stitch density will need to be **tighter than usual** to prevent the stuffing from popping out. Make a test motif in your chosen yarn and hook to see which would be the best size to use.

Polyester toy stuffing **Haemostats (optional for stuffing)**

Scissors **Tapestry Needle** used for sewing in ends **Sewing Pins**

Sewing needle **Curved sewing needle**

Eyes (plastic safety eyes or glass looped eyes). **PLEASE NOTE THAT ATTACHED EYES ARE NOT RECOMMENDED FOR TOYS CREATED FOR CHILDREN!** They can be a suffocation hazard. If you are making this toy for a child, rather embroider the eyes using embroidery thread! I would still suggest sculpting the eye sockets before embroidering the eyes...it adds a lovely realistic element ☺ I have used **12mm wire looped glass eyes**. These can easily be sourced from sellers on eBay and Etsy.

:: Skills Requirements ::

Basic Crocheting Skills: Chain stitch (ch) , Single Crochet (sc), Double Crochet (dc), Slip Stitch (sl st), joining a chain to make a ring, joining in a new color yarn, Magic Ring (MR), half double crochet (hdc)

Join-as-you-go motif joining: This pattern will require that you join the crocheted motifs each stitch to each stitch. This is necessary to prevent the stuffing popping out of the rhino. It is imperative that you are confident in your join-as-you-go ability. The method I use is explained in the Appendix pages found at the end of the pattern. These tutorials are illustrated by using actual motif chart illustrations with explanatory notes. This cuts down on printing 😊

However, if you are scared witless by the thought of doing a join-as-you-go joining method, all is not lost...you can simply make all your motifs in full (including Round 5), then sew them together. The order of motif placement and the number of sides needing to be joined stays exactly the same whether you join-as-you-go or sew up.

Basic sewing skills Sewing the ears to the head, sewing the horns

:: General Tips ::

There are a few tips that you will want to know, to make your life easier, when making Thandi the Rhino 😊 . Please read these tips through several times so you are really ofay with them.

I strongly recommend that you work through the Joining Tutorial...because Thandi is stuffed, you will need to join the African Flower motifs, **stitch to stitch**, so that the stuffing doesn't pop out. Although this is really easy once you get the hang of it, if you aren't careful in having the correct stitch number etc, you will have a nightmare joining motifs, and more than likely give up in despair! I want to be sure that the happy forces are with you and you are a happy rhino creator, so please take the time to be a joining superstar!

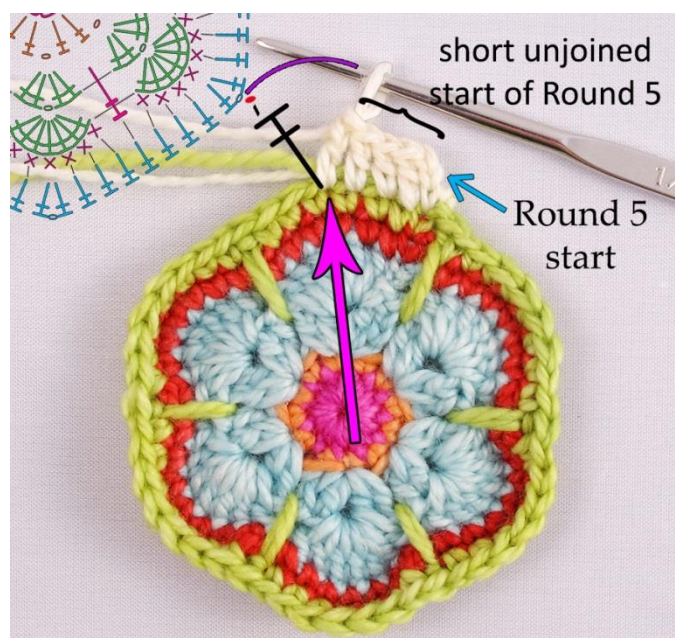
If you prefer, you can make the motifs as required for each body part, and sew up the motifs with yarn and needle instead.

TIP 1: ROUND 4: When you crochet Round 4 of the African Flower Hexagon, ie the round of sc's on the outer edge of the flower petals, (in the photos on page 7, the apricot colored sc's), make sure that you end up with **SEVEN sc's** between the long dc stitches. In order for you to easily join the motifs, each stitch to each stitch, you will have to have the correct number of outer sc's separated by long dc's.

TIP 2: ROUND 5: When you crochet Round 5 of the African Flower motif (in the photos on pg 7, seen as the outermost round in cream colored yarn...), make sure that you have NINE dc's separated by the chain stitches as shown. **NOTE that dc number 9 of a "9dc repeat", and dc number 1 of the**

next along “9dc repeat” (of round 5), are made into THE SAME sc space below of round 4. This point is what I have arbitrarily called the **APEX of the flower petal.**

TIP 3: JOINING-AS-YOU-GO PROCESS: When you join one motif to another, the motif you are joining **TO**, will **ALWAYS** have all its Rounds completed, ie Round 5 will always have been crocheted. The motif you are joining (ie the one you are **ADDING/JOINING** to the other), will only have been crocheted up to Round 4. The join-as-you-go process **creates** Round 5 of this motif. So when you see an instruction like “Join a hexagon on three sides”, it means that you need to take a hexagon that has been crocheted only up to Round 4, and crochet Round 5 **as you join** to the other motifs. **A “side” will always be the distance between two flower apices, ie you will start your joining at one chain space point, and work to the next chain space. This means that all motifs that are being joined will have a small part of Round 5 at the beginning that is unjoined (photo below). This does not apply to motifs that are joined ON ALL SIDES, only to motifs that are joined on less than ALL SIDES.**



In the photo on the left, the blue arrow shows the starting stitches of Round 5 (cream yarn) of the ‘joining motif’. The first point at which you will join to the motif shown by the crochet chart (ie, the completed motif), is at the petal “apex”, which is where the two dc’s of Round 5 have their “feet” sitting in the same stitch space. In doing this you also “create” a petal apex on the “joining motif”, ie joining petal apex to petal apex. The purple curve and red dot show a slip stitch into the chain space of the opposite motif, after which you make the second dc of the “joining motif” petal apex. The pink arrow indicates the “joining motif” petal apex point.

TIP 4: JOINING-AS-YOU-GO: If you find the joining-as-you-go too difficult, then make up the completed motifs for each body part and sew them together using spare yarn and a tapestry needle.

TIP 5: 9dc REPEAT: When you are joining sides of motifs to each other, you will essentially be matching petal apex to petal apex (that is why you need to be sure that you have 9 dc between each petal apex...ie matching and joining 9dc's to 9dc's on the joined sides). Where I have indicated the sides of motifs to be joined, I am using colored lines to show which sides correspond to each other. Remember that the **lines will run from petal apex to petal apex** (sometimes it is hard to illustrate exactly the beginning and end of the side to be joined, because the crocheted work tends to naturally curl, so the work and therefore the photos can be a bit distorted...)

TIP 6: ALWAYS WORK WITH THE RIGHT SIDE FACING YOU: I have photographed the work from the **RIGHT SIDE**, up to the point where it has become impractical to keep the work flat for

photographing...because you are creating a 3D shaped body and head, your work will curl up naturally after adding several motifs. The motifs are ALWAYS added/joined with their right sides facing you, and the “bottom” end of Thandi facing AWAY from you (once you have made the “bottom” ☺). If you look down at the work when starting to add a new motif, you will be crocheting in an ANTICLOCKWISE direction, starting the joining round at the point indicated in the photographs/illustrations by a pink arrow. If you have worked through the joining tutorial, you will have a clearer understanding of this tip.

TIP 7: CROCHET HOOK QUALITY: I strongly recommend that you use good quality crochet hooks. Your hooks MUST have good deep throats, or you might struggle with crocheting the smaller motifs. As Thandi is a stuffed animal, the motif stitch density has to be tight, to prevent the stuffing popping out. Unfortunately this means that your crochet will be quite tight, and if your hooks don't have good throats, you will struggle to pull the yarn through motif stitches.

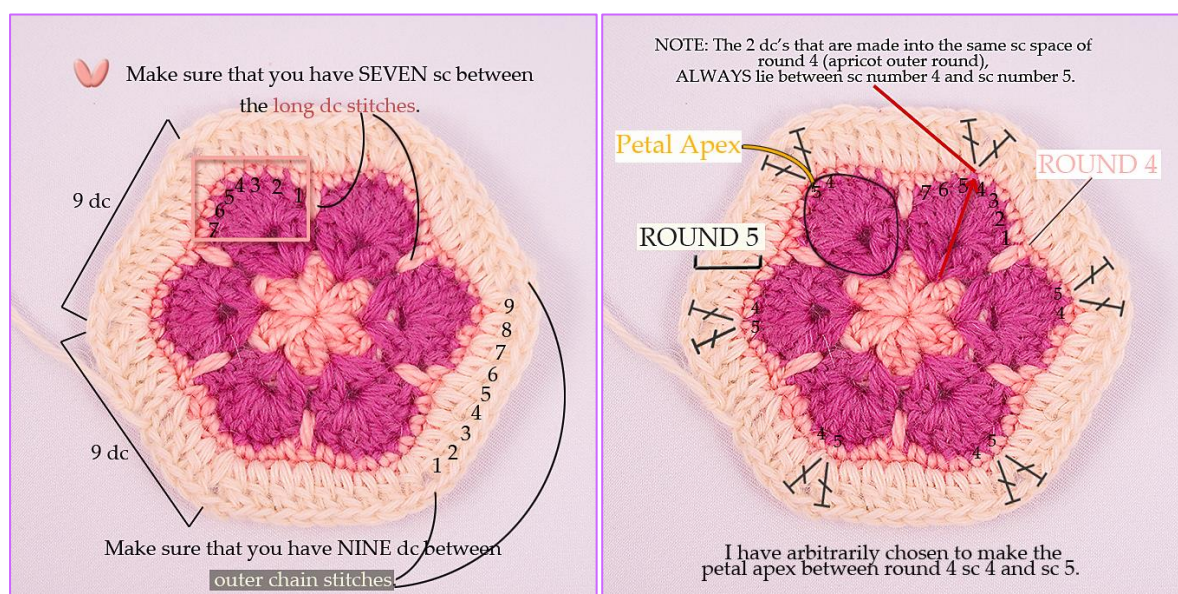
TIP 8: MOTIF SIZE: The exact size of each motif is not as important as that your tension should be the same over time as you crochet. Remember, the yarn and hook stay the same, the only variable for motif size is your tension.

TIP 9: COLOR VARIATIONS : I have made Thandi in a variety of colors, but the sky is the limit...choose your own color combinations, the making process remains the same ☺

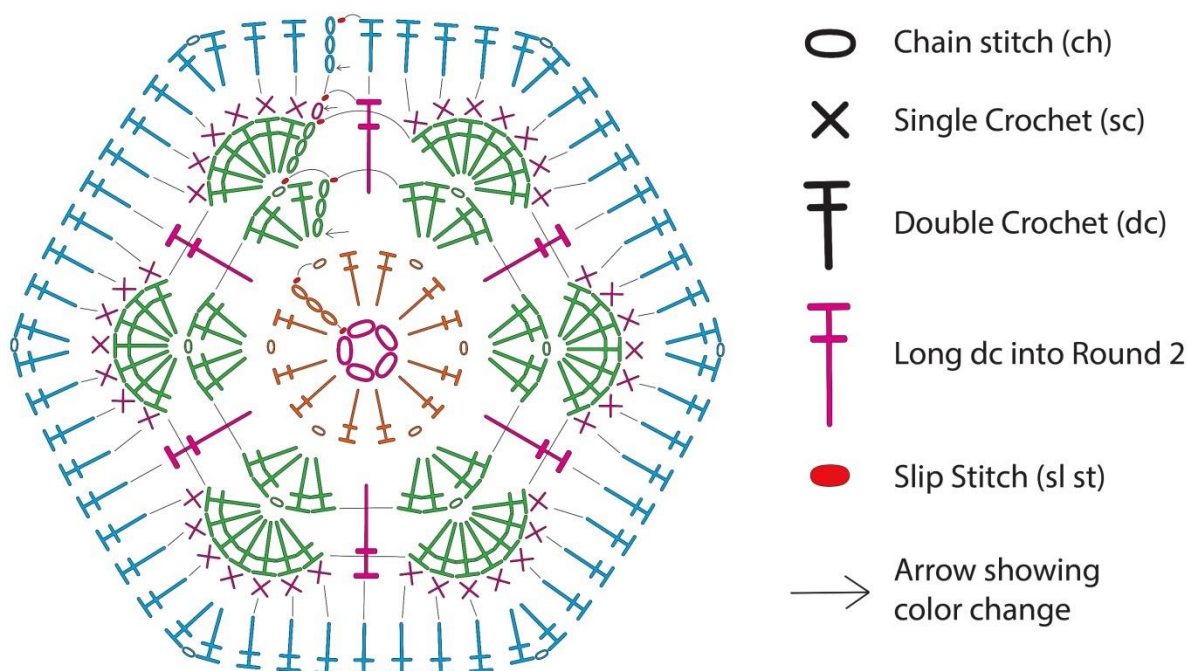
TIP 10: STUFFING: In some of the photos I have stuffed Thandi partly, mostly to show the motifs more clearly for reference purposes...this does not mean you need to stuff your rhino as well...only stuff the body and head when the pattern instructs you to do so...☺

TIP 11: ORIENTATION: When I talk of Thandi's left and right or left and right -hand sides, I use the terms as anatomically correct, ie if you are facing Thandi's bottom, all motifs on the right hand side are “Right side” motifs, and all motifs on the left side are “Left side” motifs.

Please take a good look at the following photos for reference, they will save you a lot of frogging!



African Flower Hexagon Crochet Motif Instructions



Round 1: Ch5 and join with slip stitch to form a ring. Ch3 (counts as first dc), 1 dc in ring, ch1. Then, make * 2 dc in ring, ch1 * Repeat from * to * 4 times more, slip stitch join to third chain of beginning "ch3" of the round. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (6 sets of 2dc's separated by chain stitches).

Round 2: Join next color in the ch1 space (just to the right of the previous round's ch3 beginning) and ch3 (counts as first dc). Make a dc in that same chain space then ch1. Make 2 dc (still in the same chain space). Move on to the next chain space of the previous round, and make the following: 2 dc, ch1, 2dc in that chain space. Repeat this in each of the next 4 chain spaces. Join with slip stitch to third chain of beginning "ch3" of the round. (6 clusters of [2dc,ch,2dc])

Round 3: Continue with the same colour. Slip stitch into the chain space in the middle of the first cluster of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make 6 dc in same chain space (total of 7 dc's). Make 7 dc's into the chain space of the next cluster. Repeat 4 more times, so that each cluster has 7 dc's in its chain space. Join with slip stitch to the third chain of the beginning "ch3" of the round. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (6 sets of 7 dc's).

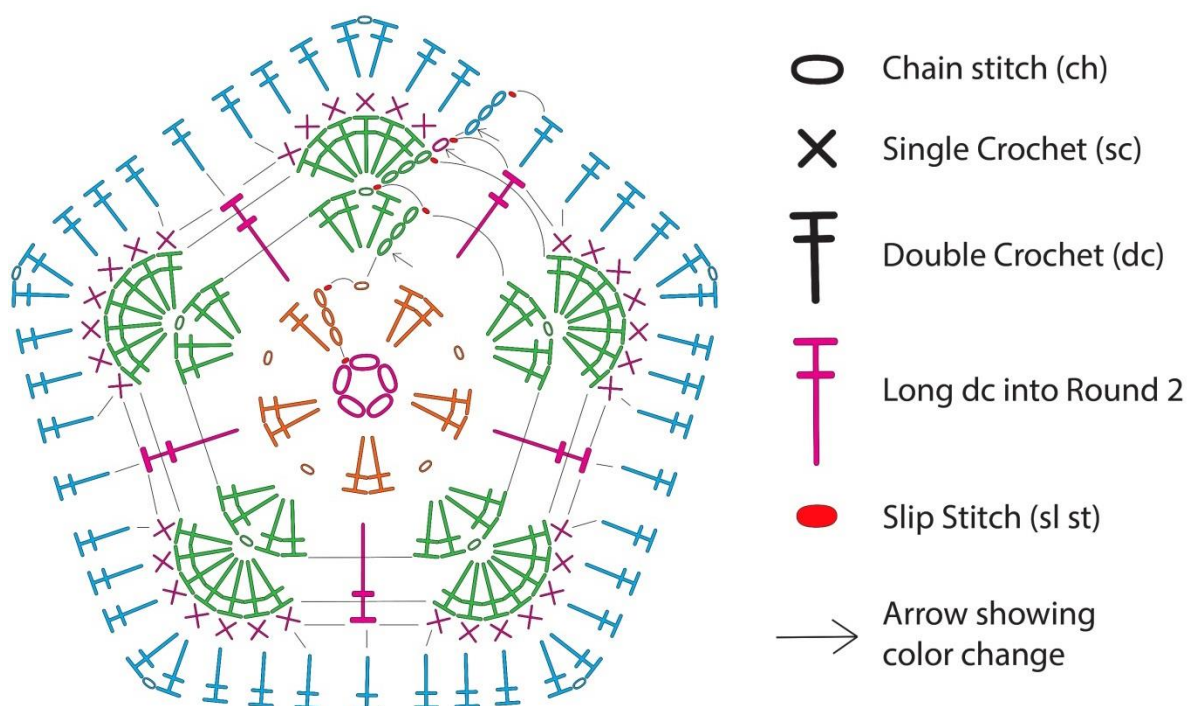
Round 4: Join new colour in the slip stitch of previous round's end, and ch1 (counts as a sc). Make one sc into each of the dc's of the cluster (this makes 7 sc including the ch1). Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Sc into each of the 7 dc stitches of the next cluster. Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Repeat from * to * four more times. Slip stitch to the beginning of the round "ch1" stitch. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (42 sc and 6 long dc)

Round 5: Join next colour to the slip stitch at the end of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make one dc into each of the next 2 sc's, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the flower petal). Then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's "long dc" stitch.

* Make one dc into each of the next petal's first three sc stitches, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the petal), then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's long dc stitch. * Repeat from * to * four more times. Slip stitch to the third chain of the "ch3" of the beginning of the round.

Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (You should have nine "dc" stitches between each petal apex, separated by a chain stitch, so 54 dc in all).

African Flower Pentagon Crochet Motif Instructions



Round 1: Ch5 and join with slip stitch to form a ring. Ch3 (counts as first dc), 1 dc in ring, ch1. Then, make * 2 dc in ring, ch1 * Repeat from * to * 3 times more, slip stitch join to third chain of beginning "ch3" of the round. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (5 sets of 2dc's separated by chain stitches).

Round 2: Join next color in the ch1 space (just to the right of the previous round's ch3 beginning) and ch3 (counts as first dc). Make a dc in that same chain space then ch1. Make 2 dc (still in the same chain space). Move on to the next chain space of the previous round, and make the following: 2 dc, ch1, 2dc in that chain space. Repeat this in each of the next 3 chain spaces. Join with slip stitch to third chain of beginning "ch3" of the round. (5 clusters of [2dc,ch,2dc])

Round 3: Continue with the same color. Slip stitch into the chain space in the middle of the first cluster of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make 6 dc in same chain space (total of 7 dc's). Make 7 dc's into the chain space of the next cluster. Repeat 3 more times, so that each cluster has 7 dc's in its chain space. Join with slip stitch to the third chain of the beginning "ch3". Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (5 sets of 7 dc's).

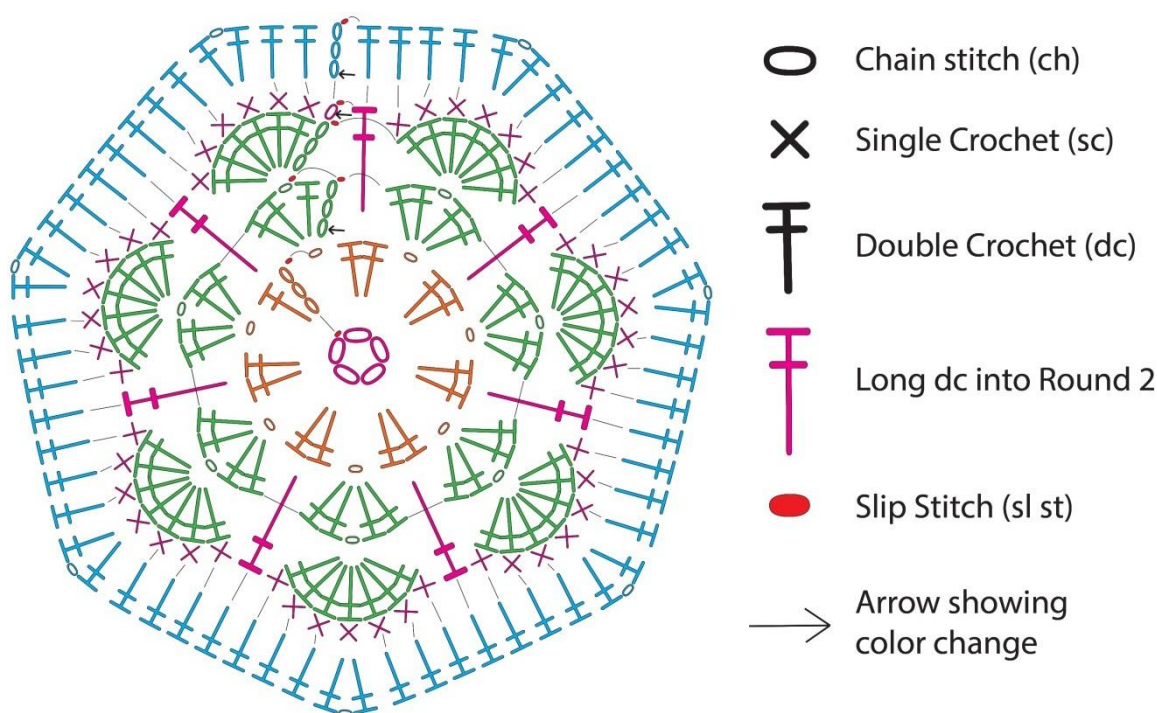
Round 4: Join new colour in the slip stitch of previous round's end, and ch1 (counts as a sc). Make one sc into each of the dc's of the cluster (this makes 7 sc including the ch1). Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Sc into each of the 7 dc stitches of the next cluster. Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Repeat from * to * three more times. Slip stitch to the beginning of the round "ch1" stitch. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (35 sc and 5 long dc)

Round 5: Join next colour to the slip stitch at the end of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make one dc into each of the next 2 sc's, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the flower petal). Then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's "long dc" stitch.

* Make one dc into each of the next petal's first three sc stitches, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the petal), then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's long dc stitch. * Repeat from * to * three more times. Slip stitch to the third chain of the "ch3" of the beginning of the round.

Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (You should have nine "dc" stitches between each petal apex, separated by a chain stitch, so 45 dc in all).

African Flower Heptagon Crochet Motif Instructions



Round 1: Ch5 and join with slip stitch to form a ring. Ch3 (counts as first dc), 1 dc in ring, ch1. Then, make * 2 dc in ring, ch1 *. Repeat from * to * 5 times more, slip stitch join to third chain of beginning "ch3" of the round. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (7 sets of 2dc's separated by chain stitches).

Round 2: Join next color in the ch1 space (just to the right of the previous round's ch3 beginning) and ch3 (counts as first dc). Make a dc in that same chain space then ch1. Make 2 dc (still in the same chain space). Move on to the next chain space of the previous round, and make the following: 2 dc, ch1, 2dc in that chain space. Repeat this in each of the next 5 chain spaces. Join with a slip stitch to third chain of beginning "ch3" of the round. (7 clusters of [2dc,ch,2dc])

Round 3: Continue with the same colour. Slip stitch into the chain space in the middle of the first cluster of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make 6 dc in same chain space (total of 7 dc's). Make 7 dc's into the chain space of the next cluster. Repeat 5 more times, so that each cluster has 7 dc's in its chain space. Join with slip stitch to the third chain of the beginning "ch3" of the round. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (7 sets of 7 dc's).

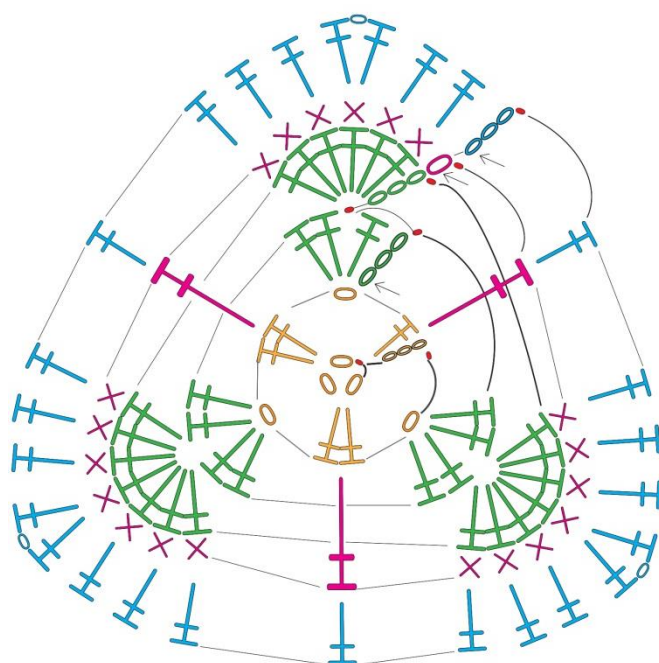
Round 4: Join new colour in the slip stitch of previous round's end, and ch1 (counts as a sc). Make one sc into each of the dc's of the cluster (this makes 7 sc including the ch1). Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Sc into each of the 7 dc stitches of the next cluster. Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Repeat from * to * five more times. Slip stitch to the beginning of the round "ch1" stitch. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (49 sc and 7 long dc)

Round 5: Join next colour to the slip stitch at the end of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make one dc into each of the next 2 sc's, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the flower petal). Then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's "long dc" stitch.

* Make one dc into each of the next petal's first three sc stitches, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the petal), then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's long dc stitch. * Repeat from * to * five more times. Slip stitch to the third chain of the "ch3" of the beginning of the round.

Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (You should have nine "dc" stitches between each petal apex, separated by a chain stitch, so 63 dc in all).

African Flower Triangle Crochet Motif Instructions



-  Chain stitch (ch)
-  Single Crochet (sc)
-  Double Crochet (dc)
-  Long dc into Round 2
-  Slip Stitch (sl st)
-  Arrow showing color change

Round 1: Chain 3 and join with a slip stitch to form a ring. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Then make a dc into the ring. Ch1. Make 2dc into the ring. Ch1. Make 2 dc into the ring. Ch1. Join with a slip stitch to the third chain of the "Ch3" at the beginning of the round. (3 sets of 2 dc's separated by chain stitches). Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail to tie your new yarn color to.

Round 2: Join the next color in a ch1 space. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make a dc in that same chain space then ch1. Make 2 dc (still in the same chain space). Move on to the next chain space of the previous round, and make the following: 2 dc, ch1, 2dc in that chain space. Repeat this in the next (and last) chain space... Join with a slip stitch to third chain of beginning "ch3" of the round. (3 clusters of [2dc,ch,2dc])

Round 3: Continue with the same colour. Slip stitch into the chain space in the middle of the first cluster of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make 6 dc in same chain space (total of 7 dc's). Make 7 dc's into the chain space of the next cluster. Repeat once more in the last cluster, so that each cluster has 7 dc's in its chain space. Join with slip stitch to the third chain of the beginning "ch3" of the round. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (3 sets of 7 dc's).

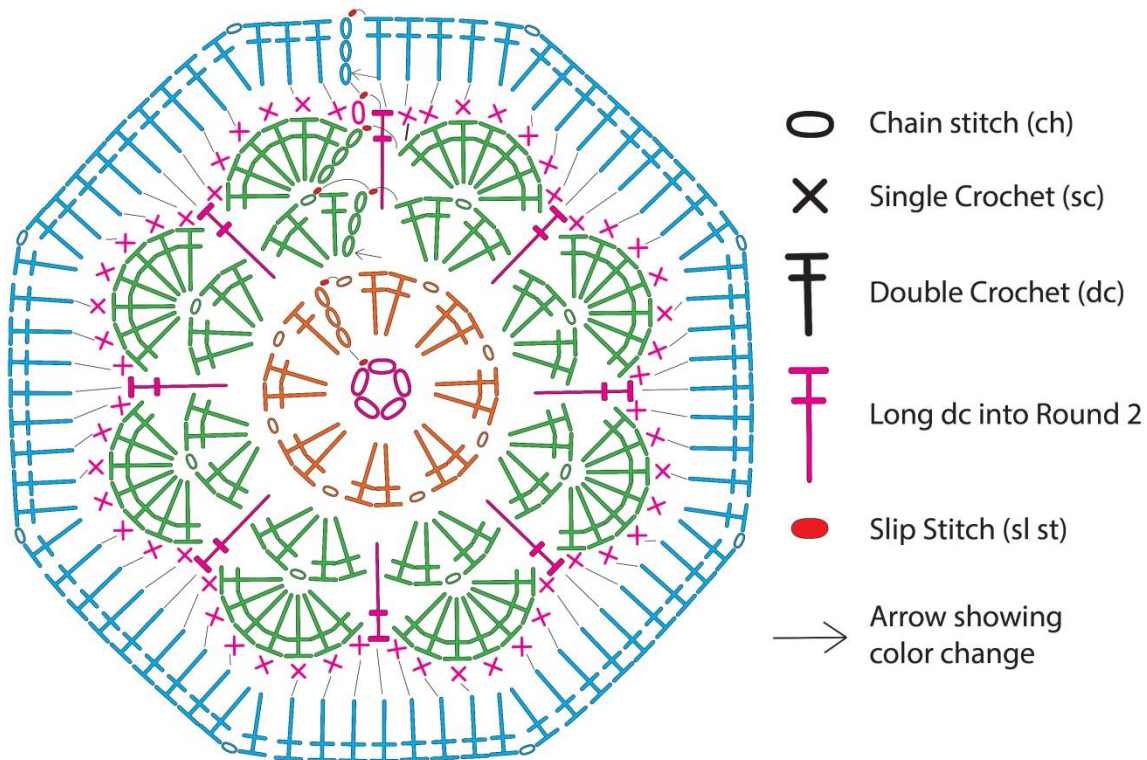
Round 4: Join new colour in the slip stitch of previous round's end, and ch1 (counts as a sc). Make one sc into each of the dc's of the cluster (this makes 7 sc including the ch1). Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Sc into each of the 7 dc stitches of the next cluster. Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Repeat from * to * once more. Slip stitch to the beginning of the round "ch1" stitch. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (21 sc and 3 long dc).

Round 5: Join next colour to the slip stitch at the end of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make one dc into each of the next 2 sc's, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the flower petal). Then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's "long dc" stitch.

* Make one dc into each of the next petal's first three sc stitches, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the petal), then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's long dc stitch. * Repeat from * to * once more. Slip stitch to the third chain of the "ch3" of the beginning of the round.

Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (You should have nine "dc" stitches between each petal apex, separated by a chain stitch, so 27 dc in all).

African Flower Octagon Crochet Motif Instructions



Round 1: Ch5 and join with slip stitch to form a ring. Ch3 (counts as first dc), 1 dc in ring, ch1. Then, make * 2 dc in ring, ch1 *. Repeat from * to * 6 times more, slip stitch join to third chain of beginning "ch3" of the round. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (8 sets of 2dc's separated by chain stitches).

Round 2: Join next color in the ch1 space (just to the right of the previous round's ch3 beginning) and ch3 (counts as first dc). Make a dc in that same chain space then ch1. Make 2 dc (still in the same chain space). Move on to the next chain space of the previous round, and make the following: 2 dc, ch1, 2dc in that chain space. Repeat this in each of the next 6 chain spaces. Join with slip stitch to third chain of beginning "ch3" of the round. (8 clusters of [2dc,ch,2dc])

Round 3: Continue with the same colour. Slip stitch into the chain space in the middle of the first cluster of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make 6 dc in same chain space (total of 7 dc's). Make 7 dc's into the chain space of the next cluster. Repeat 6 more times, so that each cluster has 7 dc's in its chain space. Join with slip stitch to the third chain of the beginning "ch3" of the round. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (8 sets of 7 dc's).

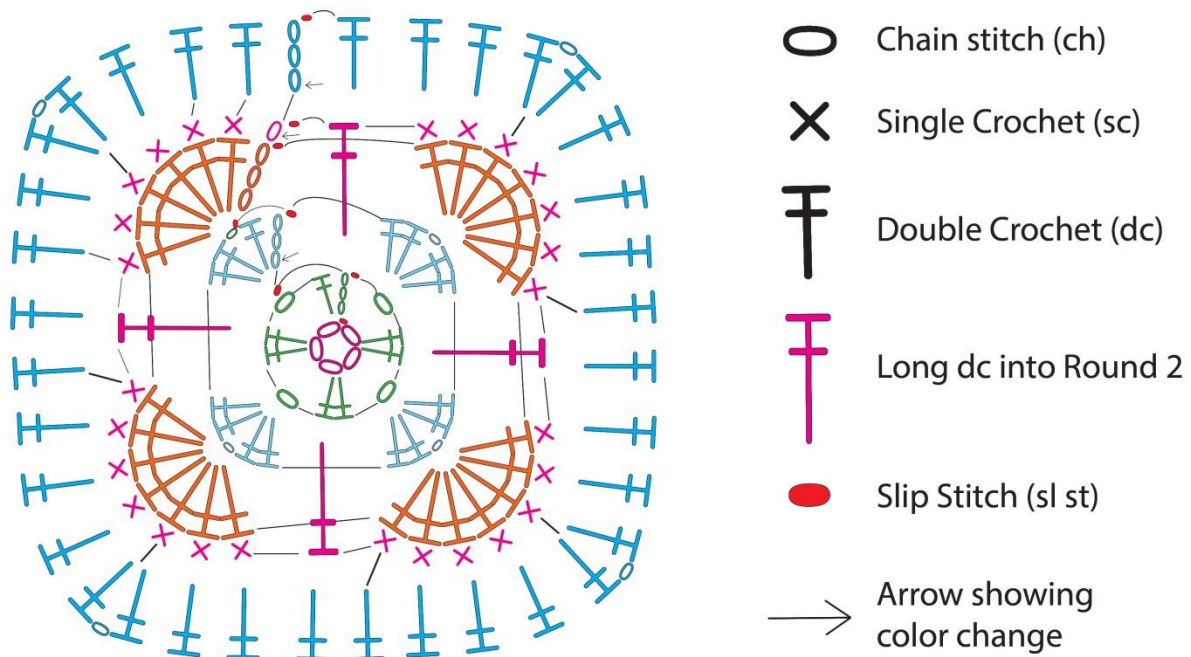
Round 4: Join new colour in the slip stitch of previous round's end, and ch1 (counts as a sc). Make one sc into each of the dc's of the cluster (this makes 7 sc including the ch1). Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Sc into each of the 7 dc stitches of the next cluster. Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Repeat from * to * six more times. Slip stitch to the beginning of the round "ch1" stitch. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (56 sc and 8 long dc)

Round 5: Join next colour to the slip stitch at the end of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make one dc into each of the next 2 sc's, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the flower petal). Then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's "long dc" stitch.

* Make one dc into each of the next petal's first three sc stitches, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the petal), then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's long dc stitch. * Repeat from * to * six more times. Slip stitch to the third chain of the "ch3" of the beginning of the round.

Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (You should have nine "dc" stitches between each petal apex, separated by a chain stitch, so 72 dc's in all).

African Flower Square Motif Crochet Instructions



Round 1: Ch5 and join with a slip stitch to make a ring. Ch3 (counts as first dc), then make 1dc into the ring, ch1. Make * 2 dc into ring, ch1. * Repeat from * to * twice more. Join with a slip stitch to the third chain of the "ch3" of the beginning of the round. (4 sets of 4dc's separated by chain stitches)

Round 2: Join next color in the ch1 space (just to the left of the previous round's ch3,dc beginning) and ch3 (counts as first dc). Make a dc in that same chain space then ch1. Make 2 dc (still in the same chain space). Move on to the next chain space of the previous round, and make the following: 2 dc, ch1, 2dc in that chain space. Repeat this in each of the next 2 chain spaces. Join with slip stitch to third chain of beginning "ch3" of the round. (4 clusters of [2dc,ch,2dc])

Round 3: Continue with the same color. Slip stitch into the chain space in the middle of the first cluster of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make 6 dc in same chain space (total of 7 dc's). Make 7 dc's into the chain space of the next cluster. Repeat 2 more times, so that each cluster has 7 dc's in its chain space. Join with slip stitch to the third chain of the beginning "ch3". Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (4 sets of 7 dc's).

Round 4: Join new colour in the slip stitch of previous round's end, and ch1 (counts as a sc). Make one sc into each of the dc's of the cluster (this makes 7 sc including the ch1). Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Sc into each of the 7 dc stitches of the next cluster. Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Repeat from * to * two more times. Slip stitch to the beginning of the round "ch1" stitch. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (28 sc and 4 long dc)

Round 5: Join next colour to the slip stitch at the end of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make one dc into each of the next 2 sc's, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the flower petal). Then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's "long dc" stitch.

* Make one dc into each of the next petal's first three sc stitches, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the petal), then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's long dc stitch. * Repeat from * to * two more times. Slip stitch to the third chain of the "ch3" of the beginning of the round.

Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (You should have nine "dc" stitches between each petal apex, separated by a chain stitch, so 36 dc in all).

Total Motifs Required for Thandi the Rhino

Hexagons = 11

Pentagons = 23 (Incl. 2 for ears)

Heptagons = 2

Squares = 2

Triangle = 2

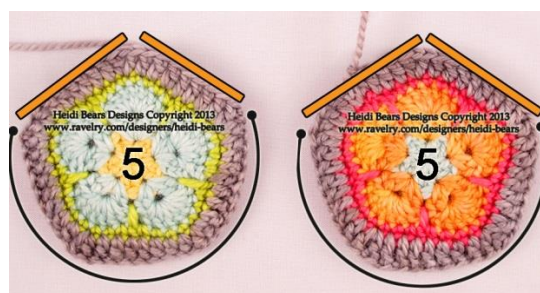
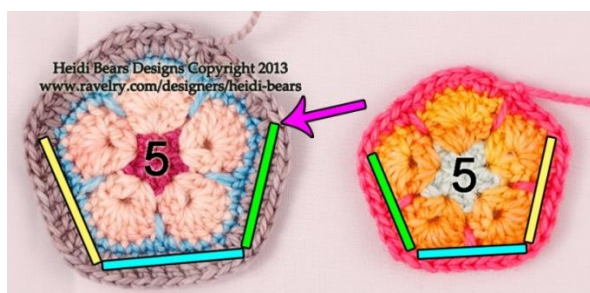
Octagons = 1

TOTAL MOTIFS: 41



:: Making the body ::

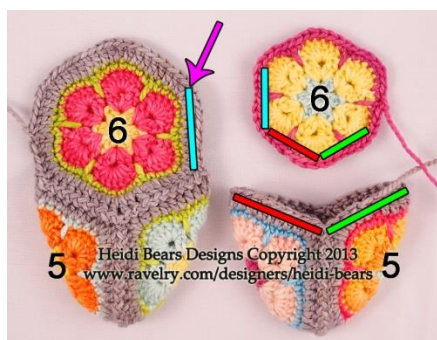
You need two pentagons for each hind leg. Take a pentagon and crochet Round 5, ie complete the motif. Now join the second pentagon to this completed pentagon **on three sides**, using the join as you go technique (as shown below on the left). The pink arrow indicates the point where you will start joining the motifs, and the colored lines show corresponding sides that will be joined. You will be left with two “free” edges on **each** of the two pentagons. Repeat to make the second hind leg. Each hind leg will be like a little “pocket”, with the motifs wrong sides facing. The hind legs should look like the photo below on the right. The black half circles show the joined edges and the orange lines show the top/free edges (you can’t see the “free” edges of the pentagons facing the table).



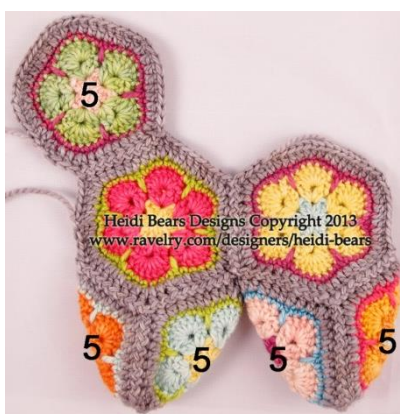
Squash the two hind leg pieces flat so that they look like the photo on the left. Next you will join a hexagon to **two sides of one pentagon** (the one on the left, which will be the left leg (see photo below left). When the hexagon has been joined, your work should look like the photo below on the right.



The next step is to join a hexagon, **on three sides** this time, starting by joining the **first side** to the previously joined hexagon, then to the two sides of the right-hand side leg pentagons (photo below far left).

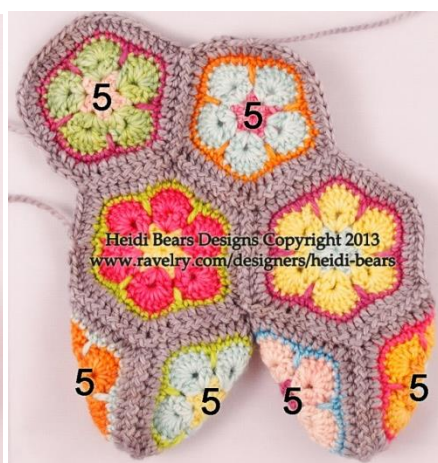
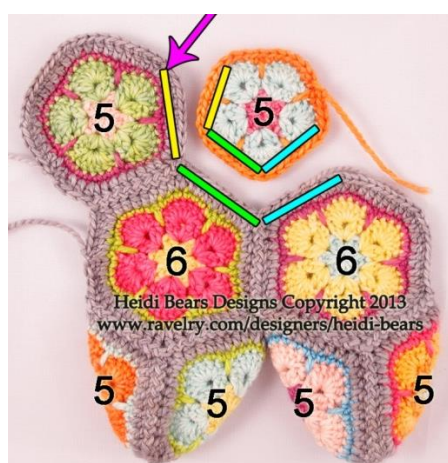


Your work should look like the photo on the left. Both hind leg pentagon pieces have been joined into one work item.

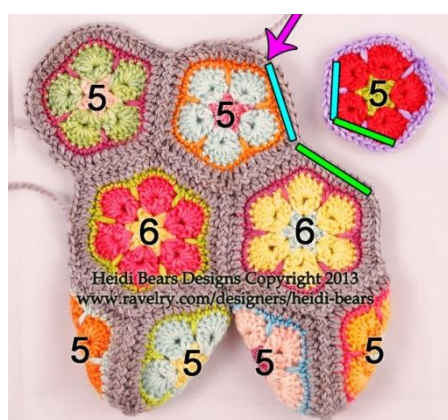


Join a pentagon to the left hand side hexagon, on one side, as shown far left.

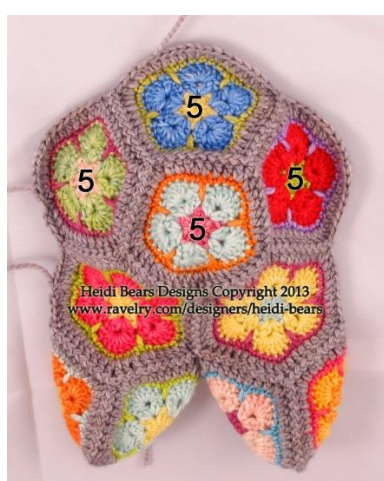
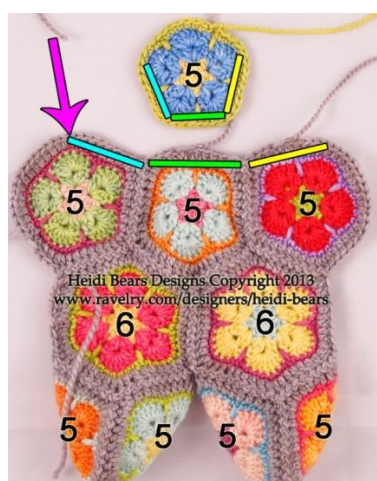
This is how things look when it has been joined (photo on the left).



Next, join a pentagon, on three sides, to the area shown in the photo far left (first side is joined to the previously joined pentagon, then to the "V" shaped area between the hexagons).



Now join a pentagon to two sides, the first side being the previously joined pentagon and the second side being the hexagon (photos far left and left).



Well done! You are making good progress 😊

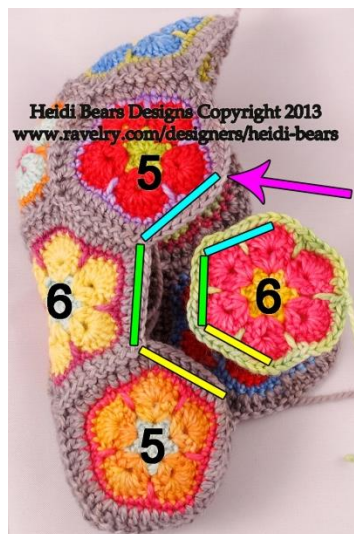
Next join a pentagon on three sides as shown far left...one side to each of the three pentagons in a row.

Once joined, this pentagon will cause your rhino bottom to start shaping...

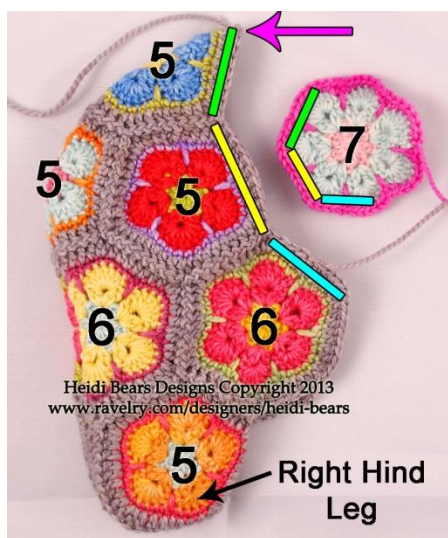


Squash your rhino bottom flat so that the legs are together and you are facing the left hand side of the body. Take note of the area between the left hind leg and the upper part of the bottom.

Join a hexagon, on three sides, to this space, starting your joining at the left hind leg as shown by the pink arrow.

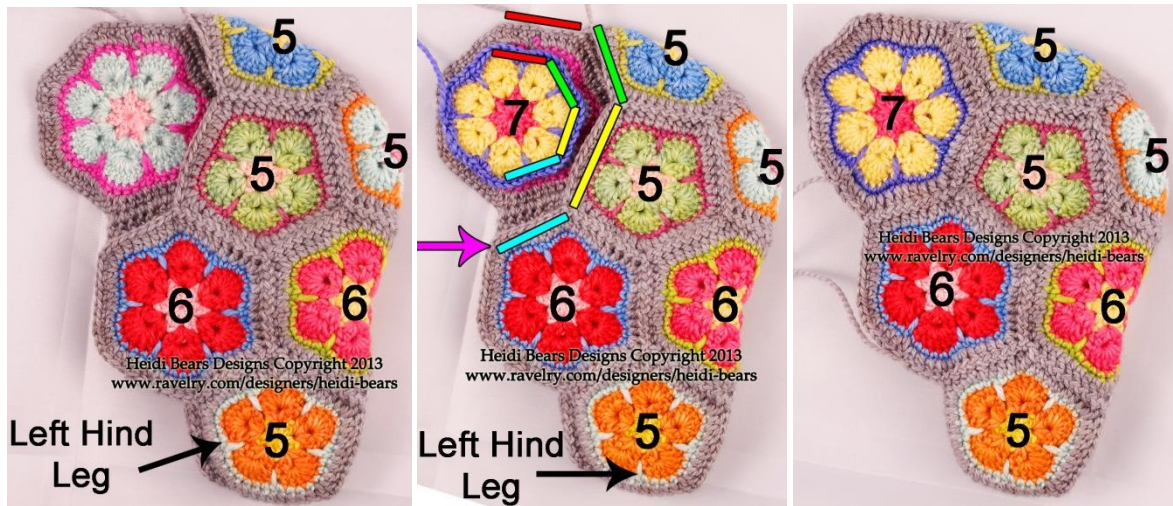


Turn your work over so that you are facing the right hand side of the body. Again, you will see the same space between the right hind leg and the top of the bottom...as you did for the left hand side of the body, join a hexagon here, again on three sides, BUT this time you will start your joining at the pentagon (red/green/purple). This is because you are always facing the right (as opposed to wrong) side of your work as you crochet and you are crocheting in an anti-clockwise direction.

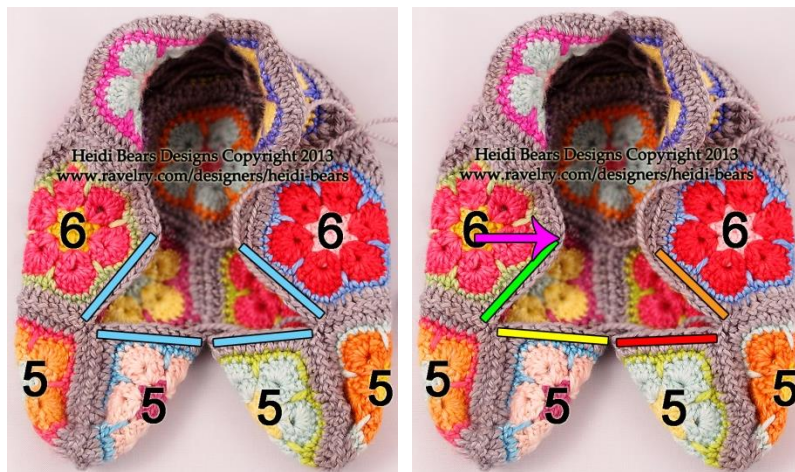


Staying with the right-hand side of the body... join a heptagon on three sides, starting your joining at the topmost pentagon of the rump area (pink arrow).

Remember that the colored lines show the corresponding sides that will be joined...



Flip the rhino body over so that you are looking at the left hand side of the body (above far left). You will join a heptagon on this side of the body, but this time on **FOUR sides**, starting at the point shown by the pink arrow in the middle photo above. The last (or fourth) side that you join to is the edge of the other heptagon you previously joined to the body. When the joining has been completed, the work looks like the photo above far right.

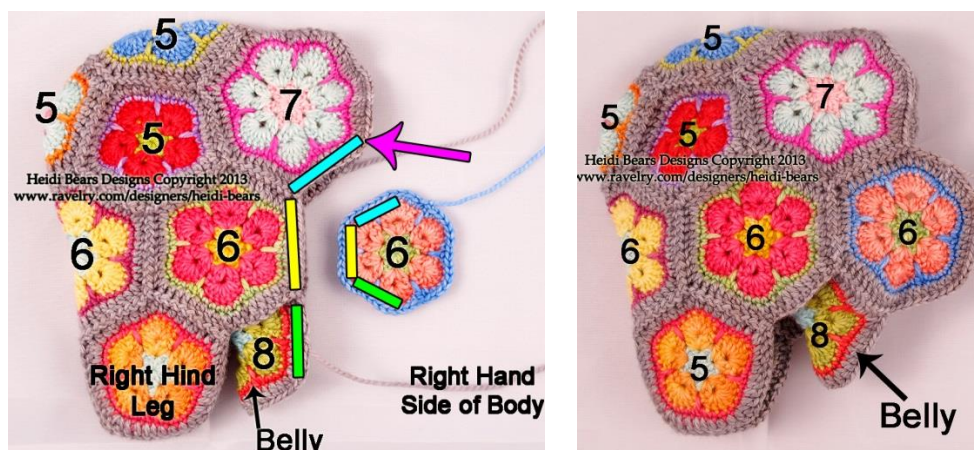


Now open up your rhino body so that you are looking into the bum area from what would be the head end. The legs are squashed flat as shown far left. Notice the four edges indicated by the blue lines. You will join the **belly octagon to these four sides** (leaving four free edges on the octagon).

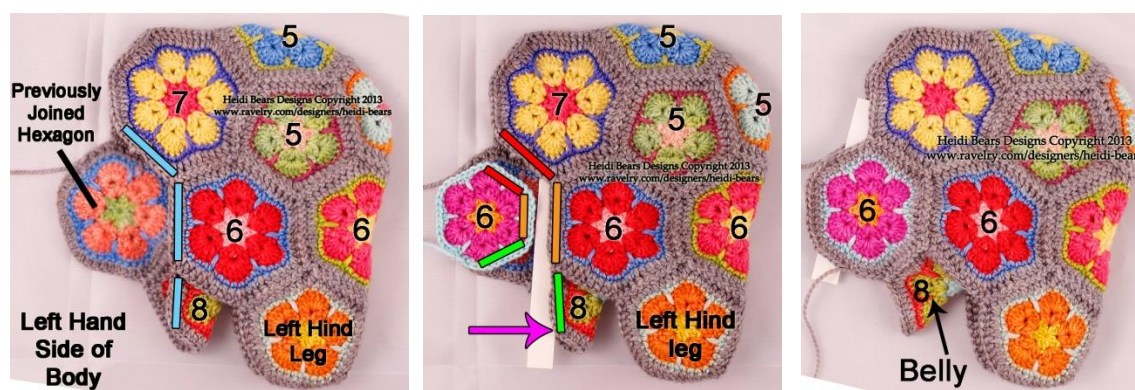


In the photo above right, I have tried to show the four joining edges more clearly, so I haven't included the octagon in the photo...the starting point for your joining is shown by the pink arrow and the four edges that are to be joined to the octagon are shown by the colored lines.

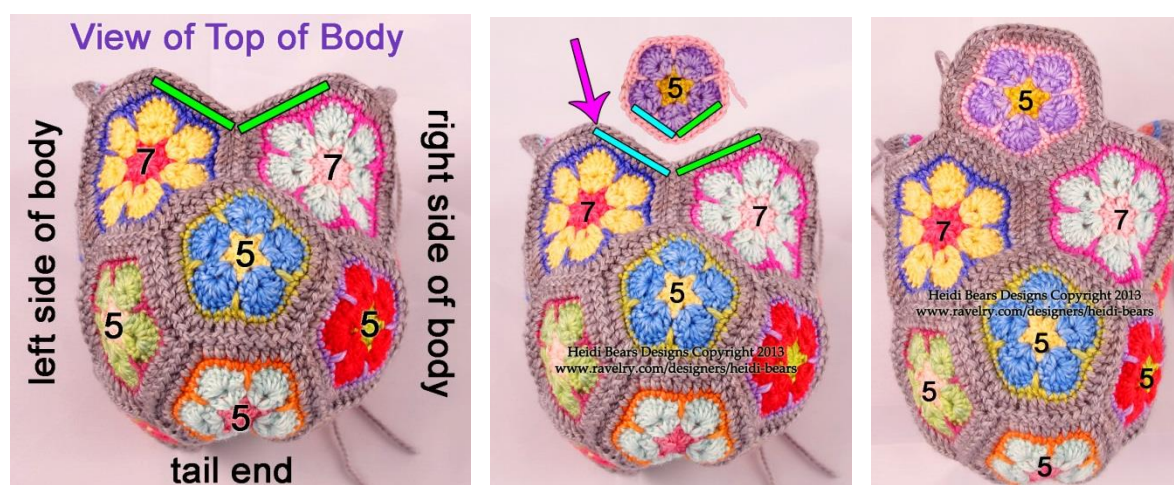
Once the octagon has been joined, your work will look like the photo on the left. The joined edges are shown by blue lines.



Squash the rhino body flat again so that you are facing the right hand side of the body (photo above left). Join a hexagon on **three sides** as shown, starting on the **heptagon**, then to the **hexagon**, then finally to one side of **the belly octagon**. Your work looks like the photo above right.



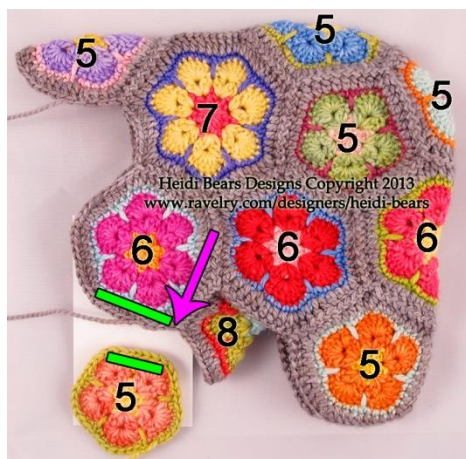
Now turn the rhino body over again and squash flat so that you are looking at **the left hand side of the body**. You will now be facing the wrong side of the hexagon you previously joined (photo above left). Join a hexagon the this side of the body as well, again on **three sides**, as shown in the middle photo above, BUT this time your starting point is on the **belly octagon** (pink arrow) and your last joining side is to the heptagon (red line). The joined work looks like to photo above right.



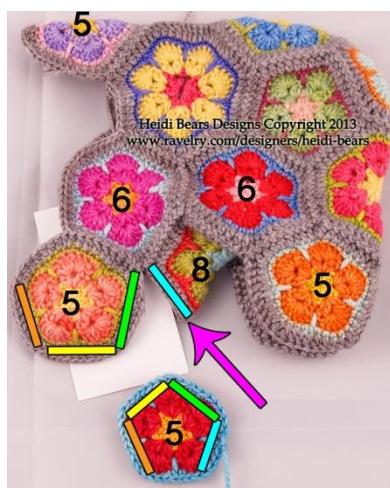
Now puff out the work and look at the rhino body from above, looking down onto the back of the animal. There is a "V"-shaped area lying between the two heptagons (photo above left). Join a pentagon on **two sides** to this "V"-shaped area (middle photo). The end result looks like the photo above right.

:: Joining in the front legs ::

Since the rhino is created seamlessly, the front legs are joined in a very specific order...it may seem photo heavy and a bit daunting but just follow along step by step and you will be fine ☺ We will start with the left front leg. You need two pentagons for the left front leg.



Lay your rhino body flat so that you are facing the **left hand side** of the body. You will join a pentagon to the pink hexagon as shown in the photo far left ON ONE SIDE ONLY. This is the free side that lies closest to the belly octagon.



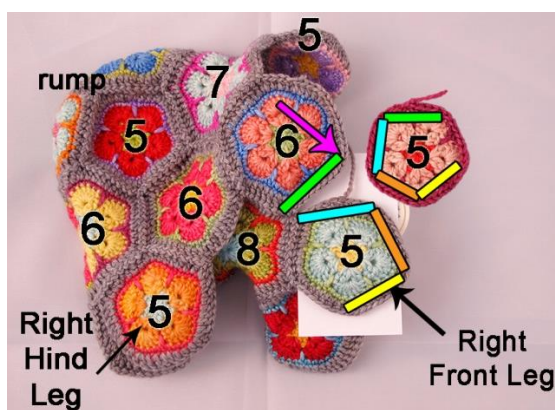
Good! Next you will join a pentagon, ON FOUR SIDES (photo far left). The first side that will be joined is to the belly octagon (blue line), then you start joining to the front leg pentagon along three sides as shown. The photo left shows the first two sides joined.



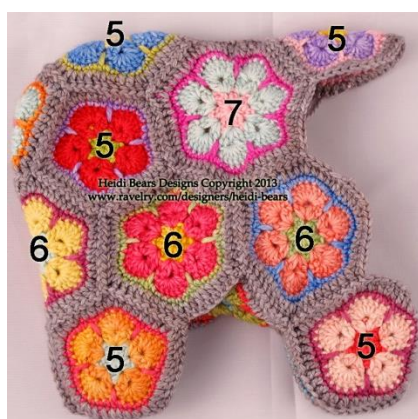
In the photo on the left, the second left front leg pentagon has been joined in completely and your work should look like this. The front leg is a little "pocket", with one "free" edge left on each pentagon. I have placed a small white card behind the left front leg into the "pocket" to show the remaining edges that are free...



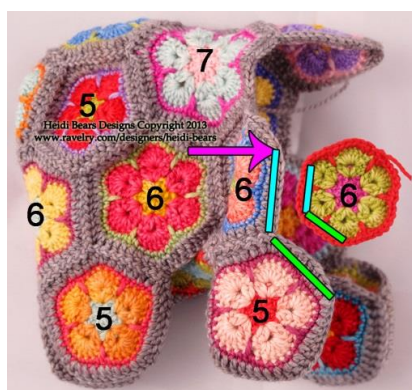
Right! Let's now join in the right front leg...Turn your rhino body around and squash flat so that you are facing the right hand side of the body. As before, you will start by joining in a pentagon on ONE SIDE only. As seen in the photo on the left, join this pentagon to the remaining free edge left on the belly octagon, starting at the point shown by the pink arrow.



Next you will join the second pentagon on four sides, starting at the hexagon indicated in the photo on the left (the salmon pink and blue hex), then joining on to three sides of the leg pentagon you joined in the previous steps.



The right front leg should look like this photo on the left when it has been completed. As before, you have a free edge left on each of the pentagons of the right front leg.



The next steps involve joining in the front-of-the-body hexagons.

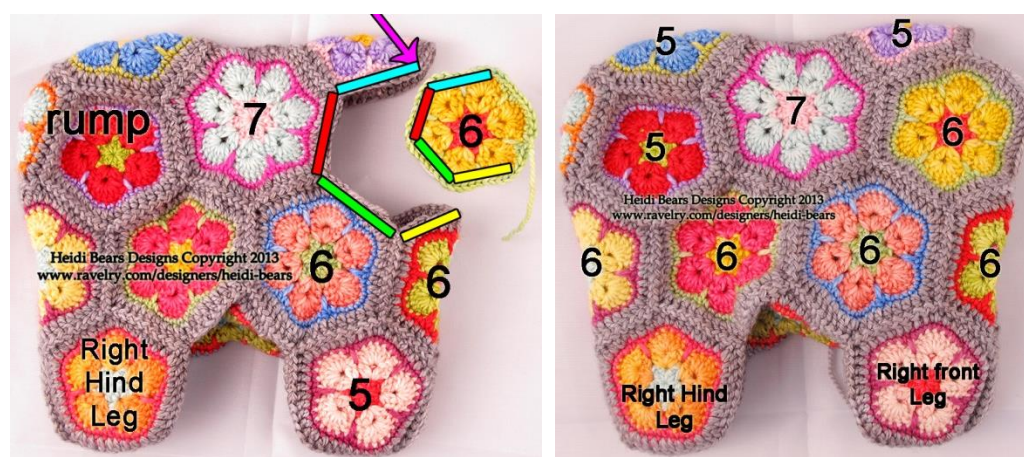
Remaining on the right hand side of the body, join a hexagon on three sides, starting at the hexagon (salmon pink and blue), then joining to the two free edges of the right front leg pentagons. In the photos above the free edge of the inner leg pentagon isn't visible so there are just two joining sides represented...we'll turn the work shortly so you can see the final join side...



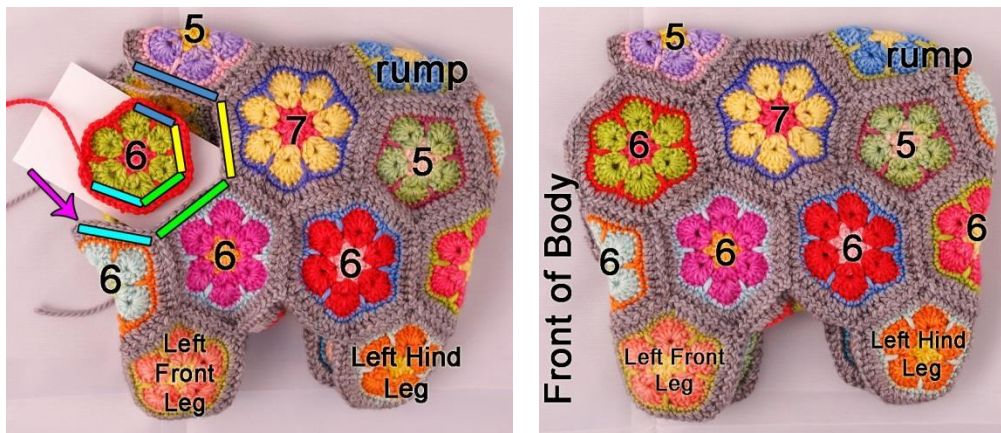
In the photo on the left, I have flopped over the right front leg in order to show you the remaining free edge of the inner front leg pentagon ...the last side that the hexagon is joined to is shown by the yellow lines...



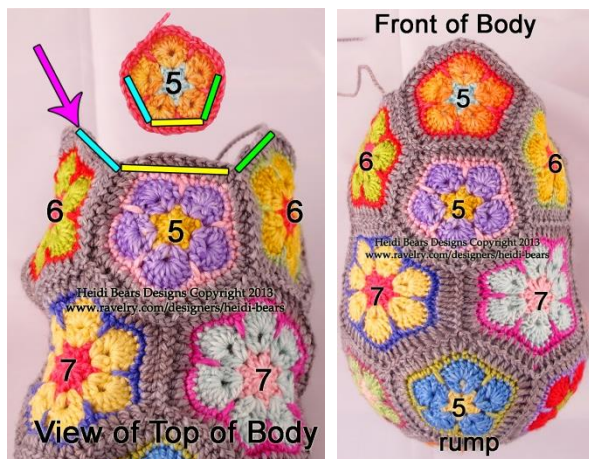
If you now open up the rhino body and look at it from the front, you will see the position of the next hexagon to be joined...this time on **FOUR SIDES** as seen in the photo above in the middle. Your starting point for the joining is on the previously joined hexagon, working around the two free edges remaining on the left front leg pentagons, and ending by joining to the left hand side of the body hexagon. Your work should look like the photo above on the right.



Whoohoo! Only three more motifs to add and you are done with the body section! Squash your rhino flat again, so that you are looking at the right hand side of the body. See the perfect little space that lies next to the heptagon...join a hexagon here, on **FOUR SIDES**, starting your joining at the pentagon at the very top of the body (purple and pink pentagon), then to the heptagon, then to the two hexagons as seen in the photo above left. Things should look like this now (photo above right).



Turn the body over so that you are now facing the left hand side of the body. Again, there is a lovely little space that lies next to the heptagon...once again join in a hexagon here on FOUR SIDES, but this time starting your joining on the blue and orange (front-of-the-body) hexagon as seen in the photo above on the left. Your work should look like the photo above on the right now.



Now open the body up again, and view it from above ...join a pentagon on three sides as shown in the photo far left, to the front of the body.

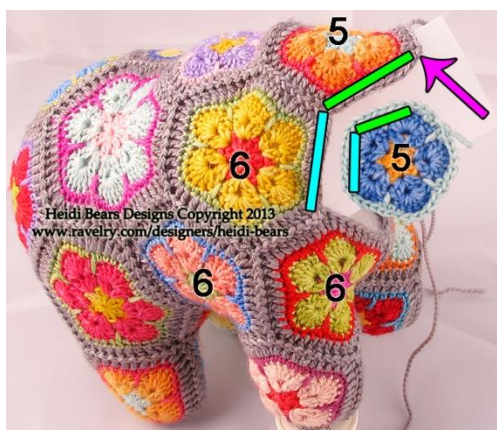
This is the last motif that needed to be added to complete the body...your rhino body should look like the photo on the left.

:: Stuffing ::

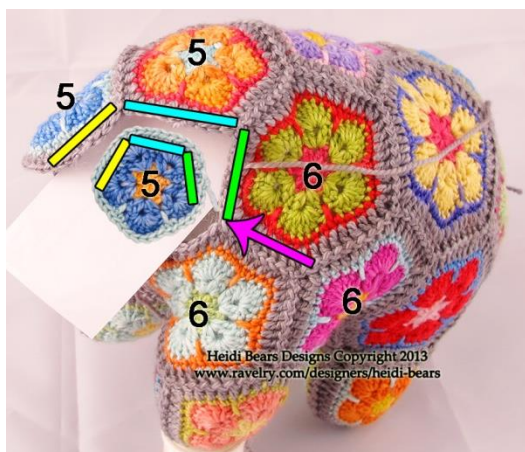
I suggest that you stuff the rhino at this point. .

Even stuffing is very important for the final overall shape of your toy, and there is an art to it. Start with small tufts of stuffing, and stuff the hind legs first. Make sure that the legs are equally stuffed, shape and firmness being considered. Now add small tufts of stuffing to the body, again being careful to distribute the stuffing evenly between the left and right hand sides of the body. When you have reached the middle of the body, stuff the front legs. Now continue to stuff the rest of the body, always using small bits of stuffing and not big handfuls. This makes it easier to redistribute the stuffing from the outside using a double pointed needle if necessary...DO NOT stuff all the way to the neck opening, as you still need to be able to crochet...leave the front bit of the body unstuffed until directed 😊

:: Making the Head ::



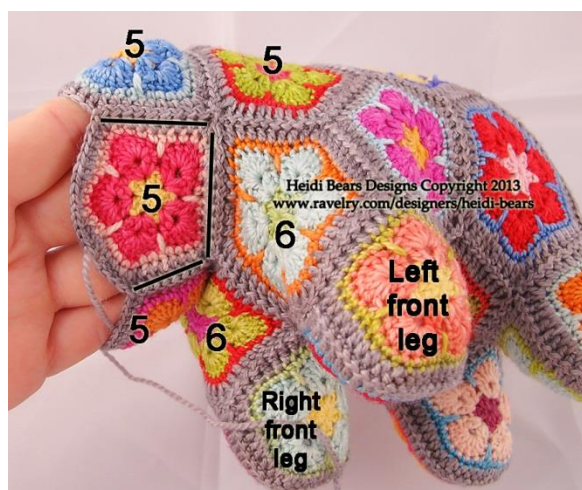
We'll start by adding the first head motif to the right hand side of the body...join a pentagon on **two sides** as seen in the photo above on the left. Your starting point is on the pentagon you joined on the previous step (pink arrow). Your work looks like the photo on the right at this stage...



Next add the second pentagon to the left hand side of the body, but this time on **three sides**, starting your first joining side on the left hand side body hexagon (red and green), and ending on the previously joined pentagon.



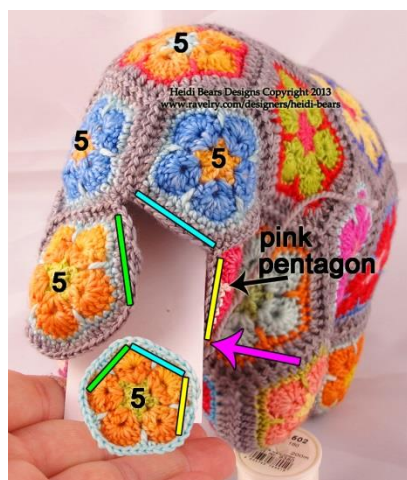
Return to the right hand side of the body. Join a pentagon on two sides (photo above left), starting at the point shown by the pink arrow. This pentagon will form the right hand side "Under-the-head" motif. In the photo on the right above, you can see how it looks after it has been joined.



Next you need to join in the left hand side “Under-the-Head” pentagon. It has become quite hard to photograph the work at this stage, so I have illustrated the pentagon to be joined with a “virtual” pentagon in the photo above on the left. There is a small white card placed over the previously joined motif to better show the next step... Join the pentagon on **three sides**, starting your joining at the right hand side “Under-the-Head” motif (pink arrow), then join to the left hand side of the body hexagon and finally to the blue pentagon as seen above photo on the left. In the photo above right, I have joined the pentagon and things look like this. The black lines show the three joined sides.

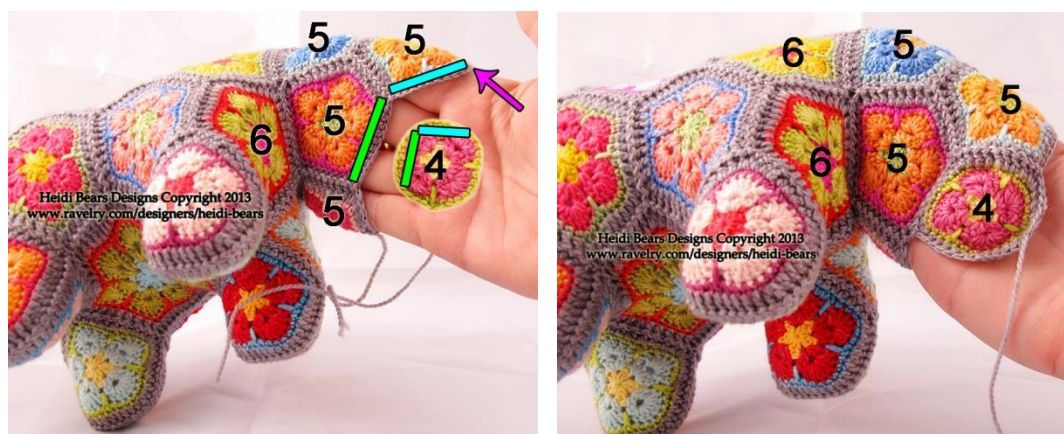


Now you will join a pentagon on the right hand side of the head, on **two sides** as seen far left. In the photo on the left I have again placed a small white card behind the motif you just joined to better show the joined edges.



Return to the left hand side of the head. Join a pentagon, this time on **three sides**, starting at the pink pentagon (which is the left-hand side “Under-the-Head” motif) seen in the photo far left.

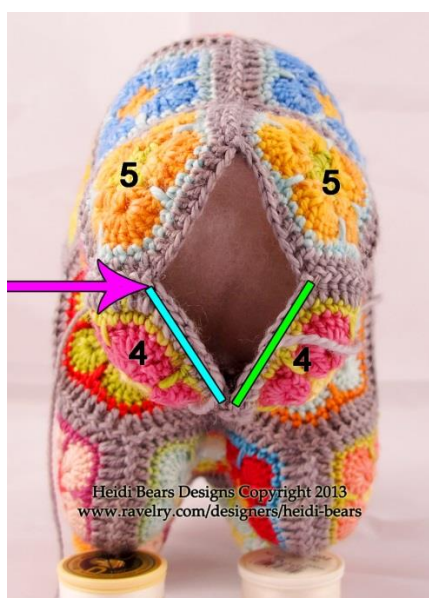
Above right, is how your work should look now...



Yay! We are so nearly there! You'll join in the "mouth" motifs, which are both square African Flowers, and then all that is left to do are the horns... Join the first "mouth" square to the right hand side of the head, on two sides as shown above on the left. The second side is joined to the right hand side "Under-the-Head" motif (bright green line).



Now join the left hand side "mouth" square motif, BUT this time on three sides, starting to join at the right-hand side "mouth" motif, as seen in the photo far left.

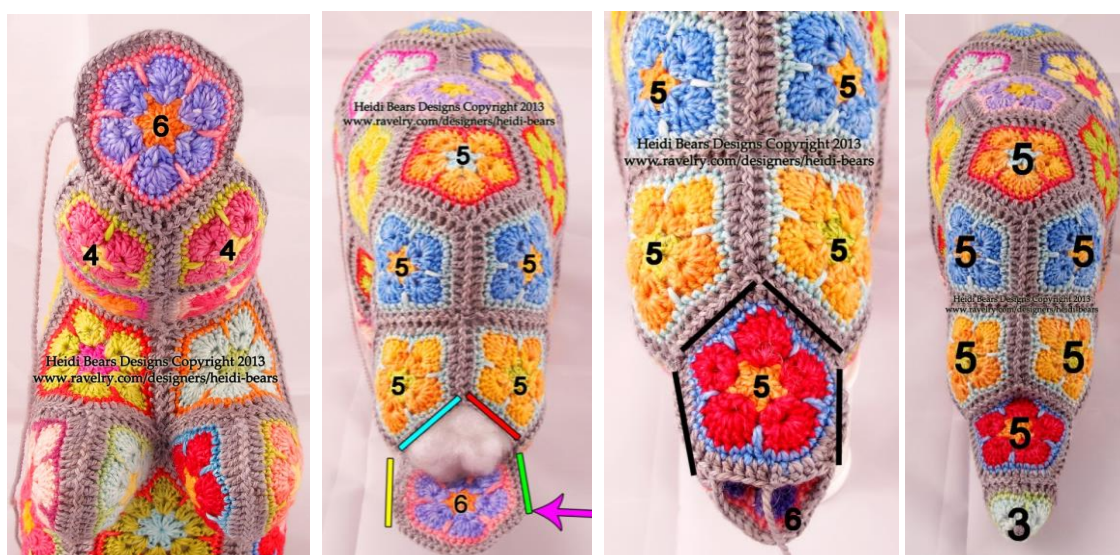


Stuff the rest of the body paying attention to symmetry and shaping...do not stuff all the way to the nose opening yet, as you still need to join the horn. Look at the front of the rhino head...Notice that there are four free sides still left. The first motif you will join, is a hexagon...

Join this hexagon on TWO SIDES, as shown on the left, then stop and read further before you crochet the rest of the hexagon's Round 5...



In the photos above, I have already joined the hexagon on the two sides (red lines) and have continued to crochet Round 5 of the hexagon (without joining) for two further sides. When you get to the point indicated in the photo above left, INSTEAD of crocheting the usual [dc,ch,dc], ONLY make ONE DC at what would have been the flower apex point (green arrow, middle photo). This makes for a smoother horn curve after it has been stuffed. Now finish off Round 5 as you would normally...



Your work should now look like the photo above far left. If you now tilt your rhino head forward so that you are looking face on at her, you'll see the position of the next motif which you will join, which is a pentagon. Join this pentagon on FOUR SIDES, starting at the point on the previously joined hexagon shown by the pink arrow (photo second from left above). In the third photo from the left, this pentagon has been joined and the black lines indicate the joined sides. Notice that you have three free edges left on your rhino...you will add an African flower triangle here, JOINING ON ALL SIDES ...BUT making the small Round 5 modification described above that you made for the horn hexagon, ie crocheting one dc at the flower apex on one side rather than the usual [dc,ch,dc]...make sure that this modification is ON THE SAME SIDE YOU DID SO FOR THE HORN HEXAGON. This means that the two modified sides will match and you should have no trouble crocheting the correct number of stitches on that side. First stuff the rest of the rhino horn (not too firmly...you'll see why shortly...).

If you struggle to do the join as you go for the last motif, crochet it in full (including up to Round 5, still remembering to make the modification described above), then take spare yarn and a tapestry needle and sew it in place. Make sure your stuffing is even and symmetrical! In the far right hand photo above, this last triangle has been joined and the rhino horn is nearly done 😊



The next step will create a *nice* horn for your rhino...you will need a tapestry needle and spare yarn. I find that using a curved needle works better for me than a straight needle, but you can use either. Use your thumb to squeeze part of the horn pentagon *into the head*, as shown far left. You need to push it far enough that you see half of the pentagon disappear into the head. This is the reason you didn't stuff the horn too tightly...

Now sew the two orange pentagons' "sides" to the imaginary line running half way across the horn pentagon that are meeting half way along the pentagon, so that the horn stands at the correct angle, middle photo above (as you would see in a real rhino). In the photo above right, I have sewn the horn as described. Next you will sew the second little horn that our beloved rhinos have 😊



Crochet an African Flower Triangle (crocheted up to Round 5), and pin in place as seen in the photos on the left.



Again, using your curved needle or tapestry needle, sew this little horn in place until you have about an inch left to sew down. Gently stuff this little horn with polyester stuffing (don't overstuff), then finish sewing it down. WELL DONE! Your rhino body is all done! Next we will sew on the ears and place the eyes and tail.

:: Making the Ears ::

Crochet two pentagons for the ears. Instead of making the regular dc Round 5, make a half double crochet Round 5...this just gives you a shorter stitch. You don't need to do this, you can stick to the regular African Flower Pentagon, this was just my personal preference...

When you have completed Round 5, don't cut your yarn tail short, leave enough of a tail to sew the ear to the head. The side of the pentagon that has the yarn tail end will be the side that is folded in half and gets sewn to the head.



Use the photos on the left for guidance in placement for your rhino ears.



You only sew the one side of each pentagon to the head, folded in half. Your rhino ears should look like the photo on the left.

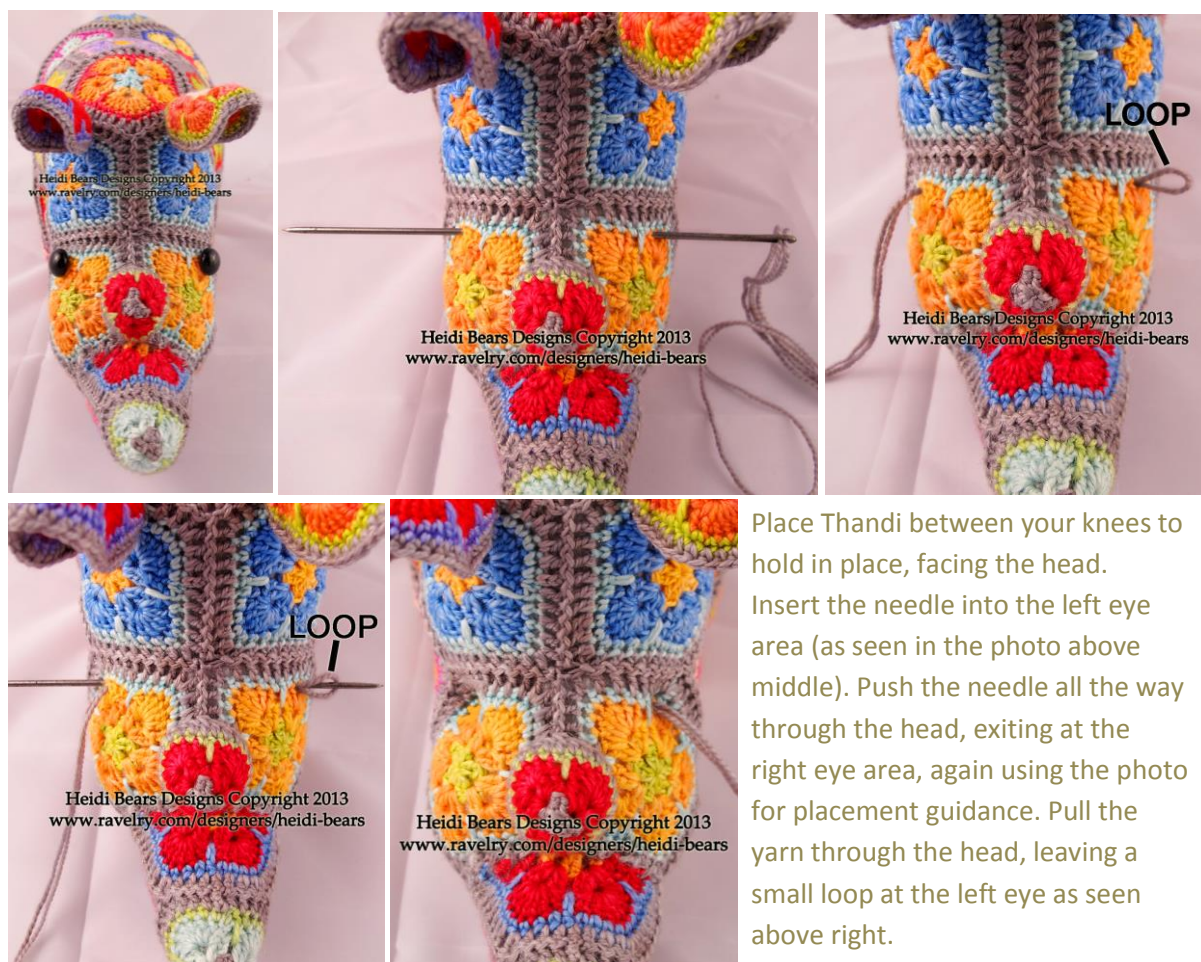
:: Sculpting the Eye Sockets and setting the Eyes ::

The single best bit of advice that I can give you in making this rhino, is to take the time to sculpt the eye sockets...it really is easy and quick to do and adds a realistic look to your beautiful rhino's face that triples the cuteness factor! I have used 12mm wire looped glass eyes for Thandi. You may need to use a different size depending on the yarn you used and the look you are going for!



Take a length of yarn around a meter long (around a yard) and fold in half so that the two ends are placed together. Thread these two ends into the eye of a long tapestry needle or doll making needle.

In the photo below far left, I have placed Test Eyes in the position that I would like the eyes to be, in order for you to see the placement position. The eye sockets are not yet sculpted...



Place Thandi between your knees to hold in place, facing the head. Insert the needle into the left eye area (as seen in the photo above middle). Push the needle all the way through the head, exiting at the right eye area, again using the photo for placement guidance. Pull the yarn through the head, leaving a small loop at the left eye as seen above right.

Now re-insert the needle into the right eye area, about 3mm away from where your needle exited, and push across the head back to the left eye area, again exiting a few mm away from where you initially inserted the needle, BUT putting the needle through the yarn loop. Pull up the yarn gently, and you will see the eye sockets indent. Don't pull too hard or the eyes will be placed too close together (unless that's the look you are going for ☺...)

Thread the needle through the wire loop of the glass eye. Re-insert the needle into the same hole your needle came out of, in the left eye area, and push through the head to the right eye area. Before you pull the yarn all the way through, use pointed nose pliers to pinch the wire loop narrower (this allows it to be pulled into the head more easily). Give a gentle tug on the yarn to "sink" the eye into the head.

Repeat the process for the right eye...thread the needle and yarn through the right eye wire loop, re-insert the needle into the same hole that you exited from, and again, pinch the wire loop narrower, and push the needle all the way to the left eye, exiting under the left eye, just to the side of where the wire loop sits. Give a gentle tug on the yarn and see the right eye "sink" into the head. Make a triple stitch under the left eye to anchor the yarn and snip. The eyes are done!



:: Attatching the Tail ::

Thandi's tail is made of a bunch of separate yarn threads which are plaited together. It is incredibly easy to make and looks very cute with a bow around the end. Cut 15 to 20 lengths of yarn of around 30cm long in your desired color, and lay them together. Take a tapestry needle and thread with some waste yarn.



Slide your tapestry needle under three stitches of the pentagon at the bum end (photo above middle), being careful not to catch any stitches/stuffing. Pull the yarn through. Now lay your tail threads over the spare yarn (above right).



Slip the tapestry needle under the same stitches (be very careful not to catch any stitches or stuffing), and pull through. The loop you have created will help drag the tail threads under the pentagon stitches.

Gently pull the tail threads under the pentagon stitches. You can set aside your tapestry needle and spare yarn now. Pull the tail threads so that you have even lengths in each hand. Divide the threads

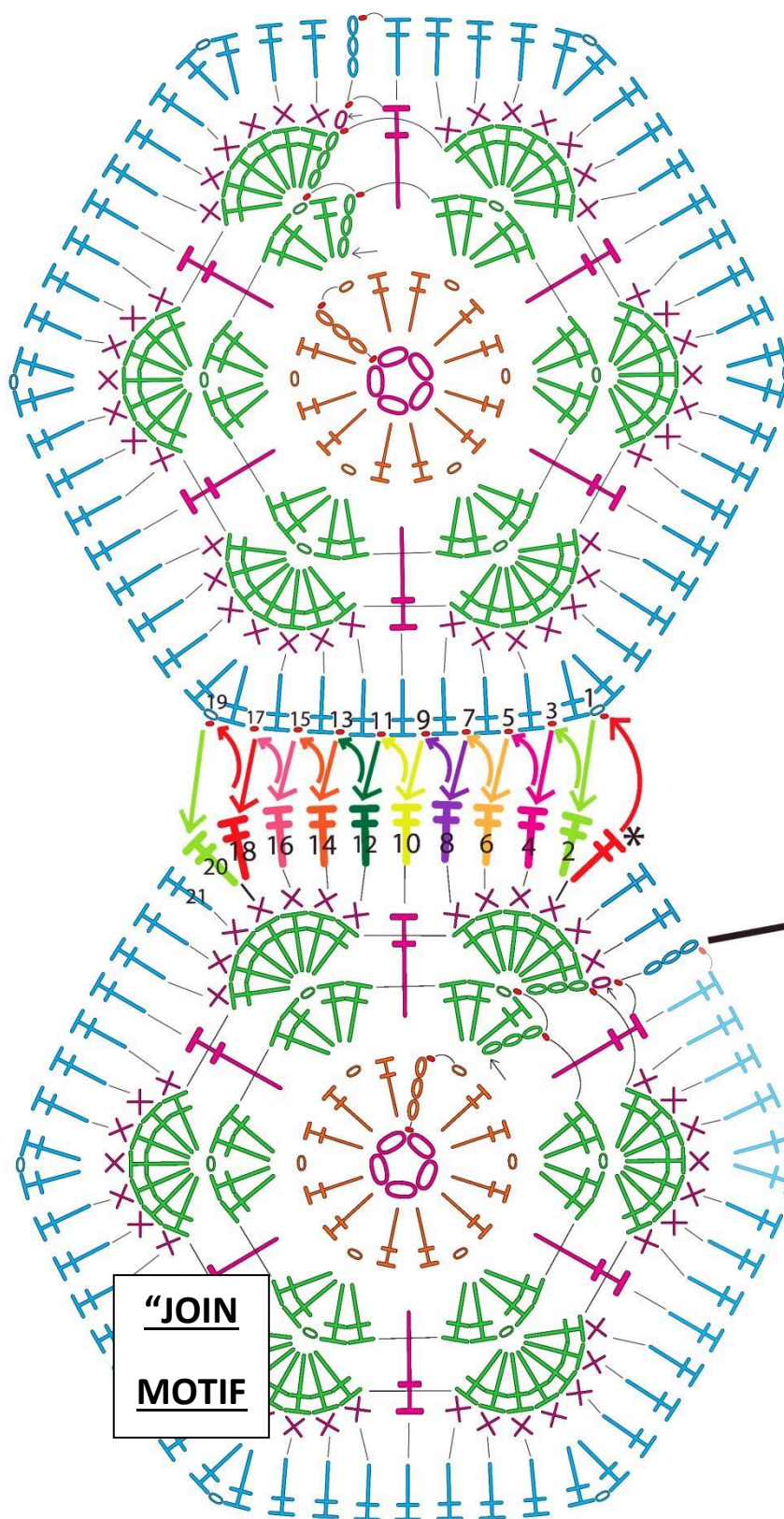
into three equal bundles and plait the tail as you would do for a normal plait. Take some spare yarn and tie a tight knot around the end of the tail. Re-thread each end of the knot yarn into a tapestry needle and sew through the tail threads, making sure you have secured the end of the tail well. Now tie a pretty bow. Your rhino has a pretty little bottom decoration now!



And now dear friends, your little Thandi rhino is done! Give her a little hug and kiss and make her come to life ☺ Let her be a reminder to you of all the rhino's in the world who are facing extinction if we don't help fight against poaching! I hope you have enjoyed making Thandi and that you have found the pattern clear and easy to follow...if you have any questions , please pm me on Ravelry or send me an email to heidibearscreativeblog@gmail.com and I will be happy to help ☺
Happy crocheting folks!

:: APPENDIX : JOINING TUTORIALS ::

JOINING TWO MOTIFS ON ONE SIDE

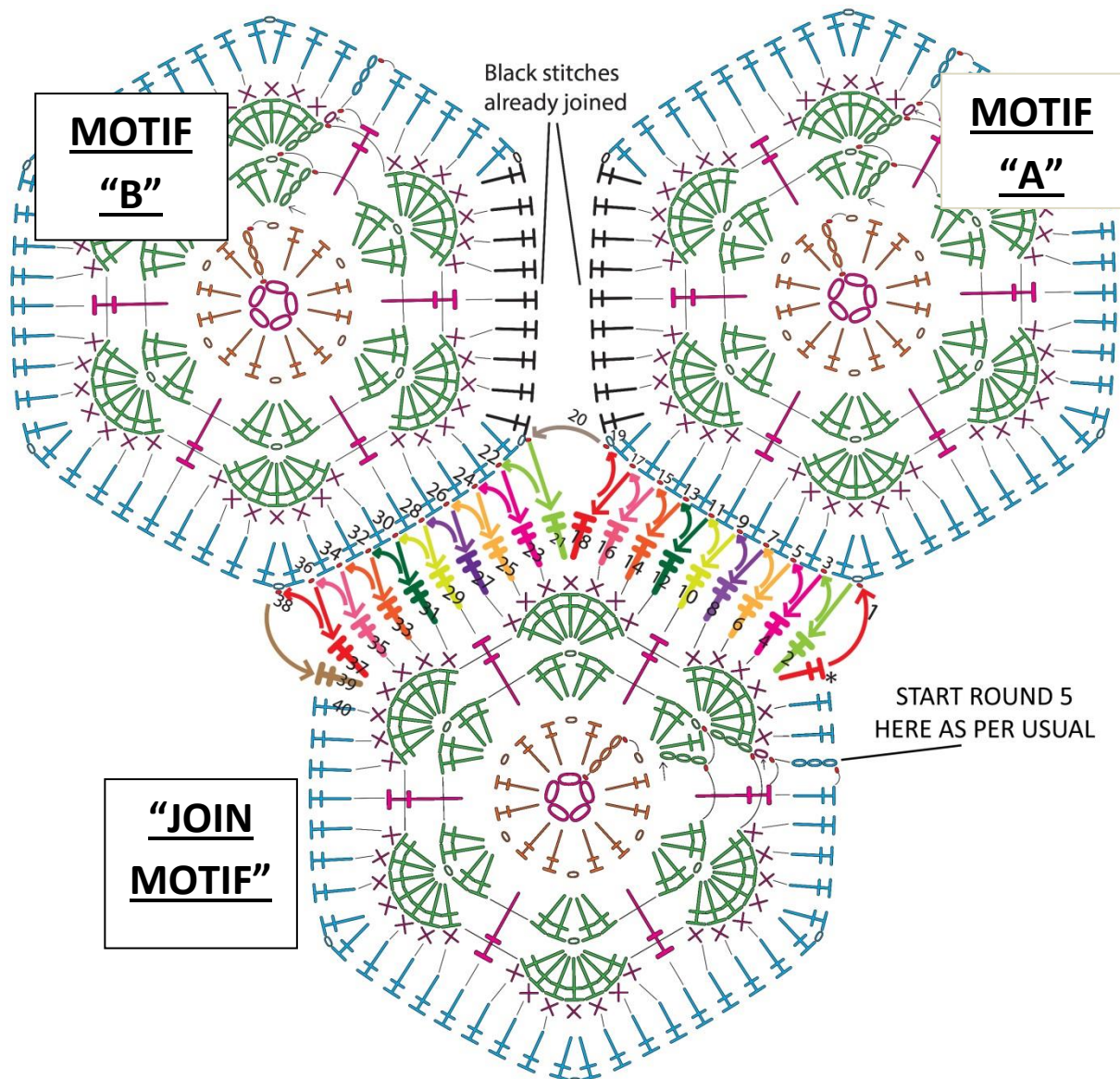


When you join a motif stitch for stitch, to another motif on one side only, you need to start crocheting Round 5 of the “join motif” at the usual point, which is where your Ch3 starts the round. Work as usual up until the first dc of the [dc,ch,dc in same space] set, and make **ONLY** the first dc of this set. This is the dc in red, with an asterisk. **DO NOT** crochet a chain stitch...instead join to the other motif’s flower apex chain space (1) using a slip stitch (shown by a red oval dot). Now crochet a dc (2, lime green) into the same space on the “join motif” as the previously made dc (red*).

START ROUND 5
HERE AS PER USUAL

Now slip stitch join to the space (3) on the opposite motif, which lies right next to where you slip stitch joined before. Make the next dc (4, pink) as you usually would on the “join motif”. Continue in this manner, alternating between slip stitch joining to the opposite motif and crocheting a stitch on the “join motif” The numbers will guide you step wise.

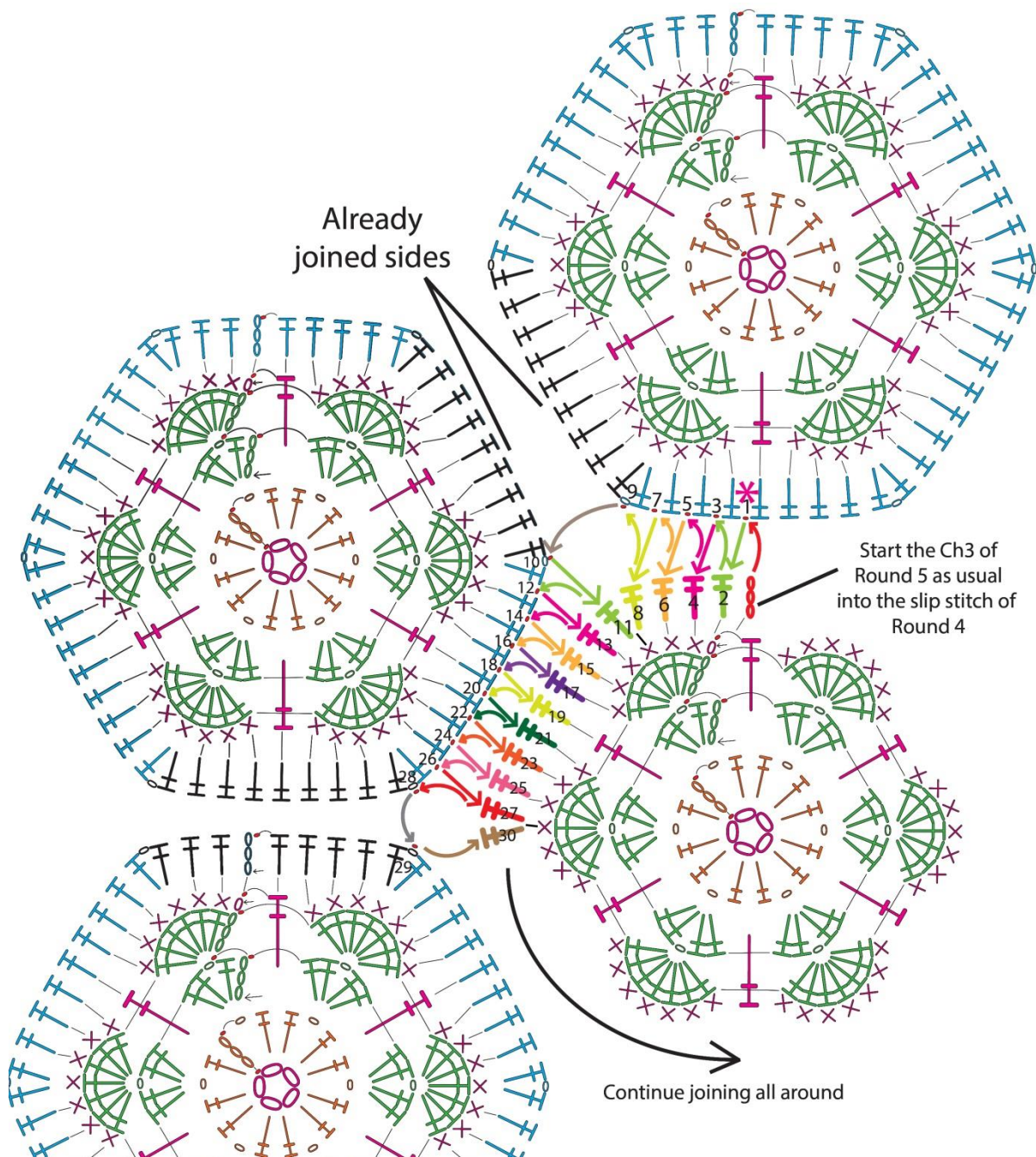
JOINING A MOTIF ON TWO OR MORE SIDES



Joining a motif to two other motifs "A" and "B" (which would already be joined to each other), involves exactly the same process as joining on one side. Proceed as per the instructions for joining on one side only, up until the point where you have made the first dc of the second set of [dc,ch,dc] of the "Join Motif", (marked 18, red). Now slip stitch join into the Motif "A" flower apex chain space (19). Next, instead of crocheting the green dc (21) on the "Join Motif", **FIRST SLIP STITCH JOIN TO THE flower apex chain space of "Motif B" (20).** **Now** you crochet the green dc (21) on the "Join Motif". This means you have joined on two slip stitch points at a multi-point intersection, making the joins strong and even. Continue as before joining on the second side (the black numbered steps will guide you).

So what do you do if you have to join a motif to 3 or even 4 sides, meaning you have 3 or 4 flower apex chain space points all together? Remember the rule...when you get to a flower apex chain space multi-point, **you slip stitch join INTO EACH OF THEM, from one to the next, to the next and so on, until you have slip stitch joined ALL OF THEM...** then you crochet the second dc of the [dc,ch,dc] set.

JOINING A MOTIF TO OTHER MOTIFS ON ALL SIDES



Joining a motif to others on all sides seems harder than it is...however, you are usually doing this kind of join when your hippo or other toy is already stuffed, making it harder to accomplish. Remember that you can sew in this last motif if this is easier for you ☺ That being said, the only thing to keep your eye out for is the correct placing of the first slip stitch join. Start the "Join Motif" Round 5 as usual, with a Ch3. Now slip stitch join this to the opposite motif, **MAKING SURE IT IS JOINED AT THE SPACE JUST TO THE LEFT OF WHERE THE LONG DC OF ROUND 4 LIES**. Because you are facing the right sides of motif when joining, and joining in an anti-clockwise direction (except if you are a left handed crocheter), this space will always lie to the left of the long dc stitch. In the diagram above, it is marked with a pink asterisk. A good way to check that you have placed the first

slip stitch join, is to look out for when you reach the flower apex chain space...you should have crocheted the first of the dc's that make up the [dc,ch,dc] set. So the next step would be to slip stitch join to the flower apex chain space of the opposite motif...if this is not the case, your placing of the first slip stitch join is incorrect...check again. If this is correct, then continue crocheting Round 5 of the "Join Motif" joining-as-you-go, all around.